

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

Case No.: _____

JOAN HAMMOND ROBINSON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MERCK & CO., INC., PFIZER, INC.,
PHARMACIA CORPORATION,
a wholly owned subsidiary of PFIZER, INC.,
PHARMACIA & UPJOHN COMPANY, LLC,
a wholly-owned subsidiary of PHARMACIA
CORPORATION, G.D. SEARLE LLC (f/k/a
G.D. SEARLE & CO.), and MONSANTO COMPANY,

Defendants.

/

ANSWER AND JURY DEMAND OF DEFENDANT MERCK & CO., INC.

Defendant, Merck and Co., Inc. ("Merck"), through undersigned counsel, answers the Complaint herein as follows:

RESPONSE TO "GENERAL ALLEGATIONS"

1. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 1 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek damages in excess of \$15,000, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for such relief.

2. Lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of the Complaint except that Merck is informed and believes that the Plaintiff is a resident and citizen of Duval County, Florida.

3. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

4. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 4 of the Complaint except admits that Merck is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey.

5. Denies each and every allegation in paragraph 5 of the Complaint except admits that Merck is authorized to do business in the State of Florida.

6. Lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 6 of the Complaint except that Merck is informed and believes that Defendant Pfizer, Inc. is a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in the State of New York.

7. The allegations contained in paragraph 7 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

8. Lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 8 of the Complaint except that Merck is informed and believes that Defendant Pharmacia Corporation is a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey.

9. The allegations contained in paragraph 9 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

10. Lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 10 of the Complaint except that Merck is informed and believes that Defendant Pharmacia & Upjohn Company LLC is a limited liability company whose sole member is Pharmacia & Upjohn LLC, a limited liability company whose sole member is Pharmacia Corporation, which is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey.

11. The allegations contained in paragraph 11 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12. The allegations contained in paragraph 12 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13. The allegations contained in paragraph 13 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14. The allegations contained in paragraph 14 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15. The allegations contained in paragraph 15 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required.

16. The allegations contained in paragraph 16 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

17. The allegations contained in paragraph 17 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required.

18. The allegations contained in paragraph 18 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

19. Denies each and every allegation contained in the first sentence of paragraph 19 of the Complaint directed at Merck except admits that the prescription medicine Vioxx® (“Vioxx”) reduces pain and inflammation and admits that Vioxx is part of a class of drugs known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (“NSAIDs”). The allegations contained in the second sentence of paragraph 19 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck admits the class of medicines known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (“NSAIDs”) includes aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen.

20. The allegations contained in paragraph 20 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck admits Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation and that the mechanism of action is believed to be due to the inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis via inhibition of an enzyme known as cyclooxygenase-2 (“COX-2”).

21. The allegations contained in paragraph 21 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck admits Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation and that the mechanism of action is believed to be due to the inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis via inhibition of an enzyme known as cyclooxygenase-2 (“COX-2”).

22. The allegations contained in paragraph 22 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 22 of the Complaint except admits that Vioxx is a selective NSAID and that the inhibition of cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1) in patients taking traditional non-selective NSAIDs such as naproxen is believed to be associated with gastric damage and increased bleeding among patients taking such traditional non-selective NSAIDs.

23. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 23 of the Complaint directed toward Merck, except admits that Merck manufactured, marketed and distributed the prescription medicine Vioxx and that Vioxx is a selective COX-2

inhibitor, that Vioxx is part of a class of medications known as NSAIDs, that Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation, and that the mechanism of action is believed to be due to inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis via inhibition of an enzyme known as cyclooxygenase-2 (“COX-2”). Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation in paragraph 23 of the Complaint except admits that Merck manufactured, marketed and distributed the prescription medicine Vioxx and that Vioxx is a selective COX-2 inhibitor, that Vioxx is part of a class of medications known as NSAIDs, that Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation, and that the mechanism of action is believed to be due to inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis via inhibition of an enzyme known as cyclooxygenase-2 (“COX-2”).

24. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 24 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation in paragraph 24 of the Complaint.

RESPONSE TO “A. FACTUAL BACKGROUND RELATING TO DEFENDANT, MERCK & CO., INC. (“MERCK”) AND VIOXX”

25. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

26. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 26 of the Complaint except admits that Merck manufactured, marketed and distributed the prescription medicine Vioxx until Merck voluntarily withdrew Vioxx from the worldwide market on September 30, 2004.

27. Denies each and every allegation in paragraph 27 of the Complaint except admits that Merck manufactured, marketed and distributed the prescription medicine Vioxx until Merck voluntarily withdrew Vioxx from the worldwide market on September 30, 2004. Merck further admits that it is authorized to do business in the State of Florida.

28. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

29. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 29 of the Complaint except admits that employees of Merck Frosst Canada & Co., a company organized under law in Canada, performed research and development work related to Vioxx in Canada.

30. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 30 of the Complaint.

31. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 31 of the Complaint except admits that in 1992 Merck became aware of research and development work related to selective COX-2 inhibitors. Merck further avers that employees of Merck Frosst Canada & Co., a company organized under law in Canada, performed research and development work related to Vioxx in Canada.

32. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 32 of the Complaint except admits that in December 1994 Merck submitted an IND Application for Vioxx and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced IND for its actual language and full text.

33. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 33 of the Complaint except avers that it is believed that the inhibition of cyclooxygenase-1 (“COX-1”) has been associated with gastric damage and increased bleeding among patients taking non-selective NSAIDs.

34. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 34 of the Complaint, except admits that Merck scientists have participated in studies involving Vioxx and respectfully refers the Court to such studies for their actual conclusions and full context.

35. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 35 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to quote portions of the referenced statement but avers that the quoted language is taken out of context.

36. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 36 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to quote a portion of a document, but Merck avers that the quoted language is taken out of context.

37. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 37 of the Complaint except admits that a Task Force was created to evaluate the incidence of serious adverse cardiovascular events in the Phase IIb/III Vioxx clinical osteoarthritis trials. Merck further admits that Plaintiff purports to quote from a document and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced document for its actual language and full text.

38. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

39. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 39 of the Complaint except admits that a Task Force was created to evaluate the incidence of serious adverse cardiovascular events in the Phase IIb/III Vioxx clinical osteoarthritis trials and that at that the time the Task Force conducted its evaluation these clinical trials were still blinded.

40. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

41. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 41 of the Complaint except admits that Merck submitted a New Drug Application for Vioxx, its trade name for rofecoxib, on November 23, 1998, for the indicated uses set out in the relevant United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") approved prescribing information. Merck respectfully refers the Court to the referenced application and prescribing information for their actual language and full text.

42. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 42 of the Complaint except admits that Merck submitted a New Drug Application for Vioxx, its trade name for rofecoxib, on November 23, 1998, for the indicated uses set out in the relevant FDA approved prescribing information. Merck respectfully refers the Court to the referenced application and prescribing information for their actual language and full text.

43. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 43 of the Complaint except admits that in May 1999 Merck received the approval of the FDA to manufacture and market the prescription medicine Vioxx and that the prescription

medicine Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation. Merck further avers that in 1999 the FDA approved Vioxx as safe and effective for certain indicated uses in a manner consistent with the information contained in the FDA-approved prescribing information for Vioxx and respectfully refers the Court to the relevant prescribing information for Vioxx for its indicated uses and full text.

44. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 44 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the FDA's labeling for Vioxx, Merck's trade name for rofecoxib, and certain "studies" and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced labeling and studies for their actual language and full text.

45. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 45 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the "Warnings" section of the labeling for Vioxx, Merck's trade name for rofecoxib, and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced labeling for its actual language and full text.

46. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 46 of the Complaint and avers that in March 2000 Merck forwarded to the FDA the Vioxx Gastrointestinal Outcomes Research ("VIGOR") study and subsequently, in June 2000, filed a supplemental New Drug Application ("sNDA") that included the VIGOR study. Merck respectfully refers the Court to the referenced sNDA for its actual language and full text.

47. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 47 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced study for its actual language and full text.

48. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 48 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced study for its actual language and full text.

49. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 49 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced study for its actual language and full text.

50. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 50 of the Complaint.

51. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 51 of the Complaint, except Merck admits that the VIGOR study involving Vioxx exists and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced study for its actual conclusions and full text. Merck further admits that it provided preliminary results of the VIGOR study to the FDA in March 2000.

52. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 52 of the Complaint.

53. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 53 of the Complaint.

54. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 54 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to quote selected portions of the referenced e-mail, but avers that such quotations are taken out of context.

55. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 55 of the Complaint except admits that in March 2000, Merck received an email purporting to

describe Patrono's opinion about the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the email for its actual text.

56. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 56 of the Complaint.

57. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 57 of the Complaint except admits that the studies referenced in the first sentence of paragraph 57 and the article referenced in second sentence of paragraph 57 exist, and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced publications for their actual language and full text. Merck further admits that it is currently a member of the European League Against Rheumatism ("EULAR") and that it has been a sponsor of EULAR since 1999.

58. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 58 of the Complaint.

59. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 59 of the Complaint.

60. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 60 of the Complaint except admits that Merck received a letter dated December 16, 1999 from Spencer Salis of DDMAC and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced letter for its actual language and full text.

61. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 61 of the Complaint except admits that audio conferences regarding Vioxx took place in June 2000. Merck further avers that it received a letter from Thomas W. Abrams of DDMAC

in September, 2001, from which Plaintiff appears to quote, and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced letter for its actual language and full context.

62. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 62 of the Complaint, except admits that in 2000 Vioxx achieved worldwide sales of \$2.2 billion and admits that the referenced 8-K filing exists and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced filing for its actual language and full text.

63. Denies each and every allegation contained in the first and second sentences of paragraph 63 of the Complaint except admits that Merck issued a press release on May 22, 2001 and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced press release for its actual language and full text. Denies each and every allegation contained in the third sentence of paragraph 63 of the Complaint except admits that in September 2001 Merck received a letter from the DDMAC, from which Plaintiff purports to quote, and respectfully refers the Court to that letter for its actual language and full text.

64. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 64 of the Complaint.

65. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 65 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to a particular study and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced study for its actual language and full text.

66. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 66 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to selectively quote a particular study and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced study for its actual language and full text.

67. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 67 of the Complaint except admits that in September 2001 Merck received a letter from Thomas W. Abrams of DDMAC and respectfully refers the Court to that letter for its actual language and full text.

68. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 68 of the Complaint except admits that in September 2001 Merck received a letter from Thomas W. Abrams of DDMAC and respectfully refers the Court to that letter for its actual language and full text.

69. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 69 of the Complaint except admits that in September 2001 Merck received a letter from Thomas W. Abrams of DDMAC and respectfully refers the Court to that letter for its actual language and full text.

70. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 70 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to selectively quote Merck's 2001 annual report and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced report for its actual language and full text.

71. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 71 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to a particular article and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced article for its actual language and full text.

72. Denies each and every allegations contained in paragraph 72 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to a particular article and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced article for its actual language and full text.

73. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 73 of the Complaint.

74. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 74 of the Complaint except admits that in April 2002 the FDA approved certain changes to the Vioxx prescribing information and respectfully refers the Court to the prescribing information for Vioxx for its actual language and full text.

75. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 75 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to selectively quote a particular article and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced article for its actual language and full text.

76. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 76 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to selectively quote a particular article and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced article for its actual language and full text.

77. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 77 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to a particular presentation and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced presentation for its actual language and full text.

78. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 78 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to a particular press release and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced press release for its actual language and full text.

79. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 79 of the Complaint except admits that the APPROVe study exists and respectfully refers the Court to the APPROVe study for its actual language and full text.

80. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 80 of the Complaint except admits that the APPROVe study exists and respectfully refers the Court to the APPROVe study for its actual language and full text.

81. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 81 of the Complaint except admits that the APPROVe study exists and respectfully refers the Court to the APPROVe study for its actual language and full text.

82. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 82 of the Complaint except admits that on September 28, 2004, Merck informed FDA officials of Merck's decision to voluntarily withdraw Vioxx from the worldwide market.

83. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 83 of the Complaint except admits that Merck announced the voluntary worldwide withdrawal of Vioxx on September 30, 2004.

84. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 84 of the Complaint except admits that the referenced study exists and respectfully refers the Court to the study for its actual language and full text.

85. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 85 of the Complaint except admits that the number of Vioxx users in the United States has been estimated at 20 million.

86. Denies each and every allegation contained in the first and second sentences of paragraph 86 of the Complaint directed toward Merck except admits that Merck employed professional representatives to have product discussions concerning Vioxx with health care professionals. The allegations contained in the third sentence of paragraph 86 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained therein. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in the first and second sentences of paragraph 86 of the Complaint except admits that Merck employed professional representatives to have product discussions concerning Vioxx with health care professionals. The allegations contained in the third sentence of paragraph 86 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained therein.

87. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 87 of the Complaint except admits that Merck manufactured the prescription medicine Vioxx until Merck voluntarily withdrew Vioxx from the worldwide market on September 30, 2004.

88. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 88 of the Complaint.

89. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 89 of the Complaint except admits that Merck manufactured the prescription medicine Vioxx until Merck voluntarily withdrew Vioxx from the worldwide market on September 30, 2004.

90. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 90 of the Complaint.

91. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 91 of the Complaint.

92. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 92 of the Complaint.

93. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 93 of the Complaint.

94. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 94 of the Complaint.

95. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 95 of the Complaint.

96. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 96 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 96 of the Complaint.

97. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 97 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 97 of the Complaint.

**REONSE TO “B. FACTUAL
BACKGROUND RELATING TO BEXTRA DEFENDANTS”**

98. The allegations contained in paragraph 98 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 98 of the Complaint.

99. The allegations contained in paragraph 99 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 99 of the Complaint.

100. The allegations contained in paragraph 100 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 100 of the Complaint.

101. The allegations contained in paragraph 101 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 101 of the Complaint.

102. The allegations contained in paragraph 102 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck admits Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation and that the mechanism of action is believed to be due to the inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis via inhibition of an enzyme known as cyclooxygenase-2 (“COX-2”).

103. The allegations contained in paragraph 103 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck admits Vioxx reduces pain and inflammation and that the mechanism of action is believed to be due to the inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis via inhibition of an enzyme known as cyclooxygenase-2 ("COX-2").

104. The allegations contained in paragraph 104 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 104 of the Complaint.

105. The allegations contained in paragraph 105 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 105 of the Complaint.

106. The allegations contained in paragraph 106 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 106 of the Complaint.

107. The allegations contained in paragraph 107 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 107 of the Complaint.

108. The allegations contained in paragraph 108 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 108 of the Complaint.

109. The allegations contained in paragraph 109 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 109 of the Complaint.

110. The allegations contained in paragraph 110 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 110 of the Complaint.

111. The allegations contained in paragraph 111 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 111 of the Complaint.

112. The allegations contained in paragraph 112 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 112 of the Complaint.

113. The allegations contained in paragraph 113 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 113 of the Complaint.

114. The allegations contained in paragraph 114 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 114 of the Complaint.

115. The allegations contained in paragraph 115 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 115 of the Complaint.

116. The allegations contained in paragraph 116 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 116 of the Complaint.

117. The allegations contained in paragraph 117 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 117 of the Complaint.

118. The allegations contained in paragraph 118 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 118 of the Complaint.

119. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 119 of the Complaint directed at Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 119 of the Complaint.

120. The allegations contained in paragraph 120 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 120 of the Complaint.

121. The allegations contained in paragraph 121 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 121 of the Complaint.

122. The allegations contained in paragraph 122 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 122 of the Complaint.

123. The allegations contained in paragraph 123 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 123 of the Complaint.

124. The allegations contained in paragraph 124 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 124 of the Complaint.

125. The allegations contained in paragraph 125 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 125 of the Complaint.

126. The allegations contained in paragraph 126 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 126 of the Complaint.

127. The allegations contained in paragraph 127 of the Complaint, including subparts a - c, are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 127 of the Complaint, including subparts a - c.

128. The allegations contained in paragraph 128 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 128 of the Complaint.

129. The allegations contained in paragraph 129 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 129 of the Complaint.

130. The allegations contained in paragraph 130 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 130 of the Complaint.

131. The allegations contained in paragraph 131 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 131 of the Complaint.

132. The allegations contained in paragraph 132 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 132 of the Complaint.

133. The allegations contained in paragraph 133 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 133 of the Complaint.

134. The allegations contained in paragraph 134 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 134 of the Complaint.

135. The allegations contained in paragraph 135 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 135 of the Complaint.

136. The allegations contained in paragraph 136 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 136 of the Complaint.

137. The allegations contained in paragraph 137 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 137 of the Complaint.

**REONSE TO "C. FACTUAL
BACKGROUND RELATING TO CELEBREX DEFENDANTS"**

138. The allegations contained in paragraph 138 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 138 of the Complaint.

139. The allegations contained in paragraph 139 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 139 of the Complaint.

140. The allegations contained in paragraph 140 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 140 of the Complaint.

141. The allegations contained in paragraph 141 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 141 of the Complaint.

142. The allegations contained in paragraph 142 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 142 of the Complaint.

143. The allegations contained in paragraph 143 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 143 of the Complaint.

144. The allegations contained in paragraph 144 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 144 of the Complaint.

145. The allegations contained in paragraph 145 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 145 of the Complaint.

146. The allegations contained in paragraph 146 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 146 of the Complaint.

147. The allegations contained in paragraph 147 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 147 of the Complaint.

148. The allegations contained in paragraph 148 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 148 of the Complaint.

149. The allegations contained in paragraph 149 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 149 of the Complaint.

150. The allegations contained in paragraph 150 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 150 of the Complaint.

151. The allegations contained in paragraph 151 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 151 of the Complaint.

152. The allegations contained in paragraph 152 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 152 of the Complaint.

153. The allegations contained in paragraph 153 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 153 of the Complaint.

154. The allegations contained in paragraph 154 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 154 of the Complaint.

155. The allegations contained in paragraph 155 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 155 of the Complaint.

156. The allegations contained in paragraph 156 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 156 of the Complaint.

157. The allegations contained in paragraph 157 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 157 of the Complaint.

158. The allegations contained in paragraph 158 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 158 of the Complaint.

159. The allegations contained in paragraph 159 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 159 of the Complaint.

160. The allegations contained in paragraph 160 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 160 of the Complaint.

161. The allegations contained in paragraph 161 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 161 of the Complaint.

162. The allegations contained in paragraph 162 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 162 of the Complaint.

163. The allegations contained in paragraph 163 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 163 of the Complaint.

164. The allegations contained in paragraph 164 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 164 of the Complaint.

165. The allegations contained in paragraph 165 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 165 of the Complaint.

166. The allegations contained in paragraph 166 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 166 of the Complaint.

167. The allegations contained in paragraph 167 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 167 of the Complaint.

168. The allegations contained in paragraph 168 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 168 of the Complaint.

169. The allegations contained in paragraph 169 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 169 of the Complaint.

170. The allegations contained in paragraph 170 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 170 of the Complaint.

171. The allegations contained in paragraph 171 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 171 of the Complaint.

172. The allegations contained in paragraph 172 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 172 of the Complaint.

173. The allegations contained in paragraph 173 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 173 of the Complaint.

174. The allegations contained in paragraph 174 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 174 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR and APPROVe studies and respectfully refers the Court to the referenced studies for their actual language and full text.

175. The allegations contained in paragraph 175 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 175 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the VIGOR study for its actual language and full text.

176. Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 176 of the Complaint directed at Merck except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the VIGOR study for its actual language and full text.

177. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 177 of the Complaint directed at Merck except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the VIGOR study and respectfully refers the Court to the VIGOR study for its actual language and full text.

178. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 178, including footnote “1”, of the Complaint directed toward Merck except admits that Plaintiff purports to refer to the APPROVe study and respectfully refers the Court to the APPROVe study for its actual language and full text.

179. The allegations contained in paragraph 179 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 179 of the Complaint.

180. The allegations contained in paragraph 180 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 180 of the Complaint.

181. The allegations contained in paragraph 181 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 181 of the Complaint.

182. The allegations contained in paragraph 182 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 182 of the Complaint.

183. The allegations contained in paragraph 183 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 183 of the Complaint.

184. The allegations contained in paragraph 184 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 184 of the Complaint.

185. The allegations contained in paragraph 185 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 185 of the Complaint.

186. The allegations contained in paragraph 186 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 186 of the Complaint.

187. The allegations contained in paragraph 187 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 187 of the Complaint.

188. The allegations contained in paragraph 188 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 188 of the Complaint.

189. The allegations contained in paragraph 189 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 189 of the Complaint.

190. The allegations contained in paragraph 190 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 190 of the Complaint.

191. The allegations contained in paragraph 191 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 191 of the Complaint.

192. The allegations contained in paragraph 192 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 192 of the Complaint.

193. The allegations contained in paragraph 193 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 193 of the Complaint.

194. The allegations contained in paragraph 194 of the Complaint, including footnote "2", are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a

response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 194 of the Complaint, including footnote "2".

195. The allegations contained in paragraph 195 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 195 of the Complaint.

196. The allegations contained in paragraph 196 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 196 of the Complaint.

197. The allegations contained in paragraph 197 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 197 of the Complaint.

198. The allegations contained in paragraph 198 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 198 of the Complaint.

199. The allegations contained in paragraph 199 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required,

Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 199 of the Complaint.

200. The allegations contained in paragraph 200 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 200 of the Complaint.

201. The allegations contained in paragraph 201 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 201 of the Complaint.

202. The allegations contained in paragraph 202 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 202 of the Complaint.

203. The allegations contained in paragraph 203 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 203 of the Complaint.

204. The allegations contained in paragraph 204 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 204 of the Complaint.

205. The allegations contained in paragraph 205 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 205 of the Complaint.

206. The allegations contained in paragraph 206 of the Complaint are not directed toward Merck and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 206 of the Complaint.

RESPONSE TO “COUNT I STRICT LIABILITY (AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)”

With respect to the un-numbered introductory paragraph of Count I, Merck hereby repeats and realleges each and every admission, denial, averment and statement contained in paragraphs 1 through 206 of this Answer with the same force and effect as though set forth here in full.

207. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 207 of the Complaint, including subparts a - f, directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 207, including subparts a - f, of the Complaint.

208. Lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 208 of the Complaint.

209. The allegations contained in paragraph 209 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies

each and every allegation in paragraph 209 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 209 of the Complaint.

210. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 210 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 210 of the Complaint.

211. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 211 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 211 of the Complaint.

212. The allegations contained in paragraph 212 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 212 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 212 of the Complaint.

213. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 213 of the Complaint.

214. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 214 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations

directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 214 of the Complaint.

**RESPONSE TO DEMANDS SET FORTH
IN AD DAMNUM CLAUSE FOR COUNT I**

Plaintiff's ad damnum clause for Count I of the Complaint is not an allegation and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained therein except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek certain relief, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for the relief sought.

RESPONSE TO "COUNT II NEGLIGENCE (AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)"

With respect to the un-numbered introductory paragraph of Count II of the Complaint, Merck repeats and realleges each and every admission, denial, averment and statement contained in paragraph 1 through 206 of this Answer with the same force and effect as though fully set forth here in full.

215. The allegations contained in paragraph 215 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 215 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 215 of the Complaint.

216. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 216, including subparts a - f, of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck

denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 216 of the Complaint, including subparts a - f.

217. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 217 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 217 of the Complaint.

218. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 218 of the Complaint directed toward Merck except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek certain damages, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for the relief requested. Merck is not required to respond to the allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 218 of the Complaint except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek certain damages, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for the relief requested.

**RESPONSE TO DEMANDS SET FORTH
IN AD DAMNUM CLAUSE FOR COUNT II**

Plaintiff's ad damnum clause for Count II of the Complaint is not an allegation and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained therein except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek certain relief, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for the relief sought.

**RESPONSE TO "COUNT III
NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION (AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)"**

With respect to the un-numbered introductory paragraph of Count III of the Complaint, Merck hereby repeats and realleges each and every admission, denial,

averment and statement contained in paragraph 1 through 206 of this Answer with the same force and effect as though fully set forth here in full.

219. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 219 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 219 of the Complaint.

220. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 220 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 220 of the Complaint.

221. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 221 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 221 of the Complaint.

222. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 222 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 222 of the Complaint.

223. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 223 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 223 of the Complaint.

224. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 224 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 224 of the Complaint.

225. The allegations contained in paragraph 225 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 225 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 225 of the Complaint.

226. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 226 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 226 of the Complaint.

227. The allegations contained in paragraph 227 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 227 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 227 of the Complaint.

228. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 228 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations

directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 228 of the Complaint.

229. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 229 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 229 of the Complaint.

230. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 230 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 230 of the Complaint.

**RESPONSE TO DEMANDS SET FORTH
IN AD DAMNUM CLAUSE FOR COUNT III**

Plaintiff's ad damnum clause for Count III of the Complaint is not an allegation and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained therein except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek certain relief, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for the relief sought.

RESPONSE TO "COUNT IV FRAUD (AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)"

With respect to the un-numbered introductory paragraph of Count IV of the Complaint, Merck hereby repeats and realleges each and every admission, denial, averment and statement contained in paragraph 1 through 206 of this Answer with the same force and effect as though fully set forth here in full.

231. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 231 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations

directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 231 of the Complaint.

232. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 232 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 232 of the Complaint.

233. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 233 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 233 of the Complaint.

234. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 234 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 234 of the Complaint.

235. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 235 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 235 of the Complaint.

236. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 236, including subparts a - c, of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck

denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 236 of the Complaint, including subparts a - c.

237. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 237 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 237 of the Complaint.

238. The allegations contained in paragraph 238 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 238 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 238 of the Complaint.

239. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 239 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 239 of the Complaint.

240. The allegations contained in paragraph 240 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 240 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 240 of the Complaint.

241. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 241 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 241 of the Complaint.

242. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 242 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 242 of the Complaint.

243. Denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 243 of the Complaint directed toward Merck. Merck is not required to respond to allegations directed toward the other Defendants. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained in paragraph 243 of the Complaint.

**RESPONSE TO DEMANDS SET FORTH
IN AD DAMNUM CLAUSE FOR COUNT IV**

Plaintiff's ad damnum clause for Count IV of the Complaint is not an allegation and therefore no response is required. If a response is required, Merck denies each and every allegation contained therein except admits that Plaintiff purports to seek certain relief, but denies that there is any legal or factual basis for the relief sought.

AS FOR A FIRST DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

244. Each and every claim asserted or raised in the Complaint is barred by the applicable statute of limitations or is otherwise untimely.

AS FOR A SECOND DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

245. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

AS FOR A THIRD DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

246. The claims of Plaintiff are barred, in whole or in part, from recovery because she has made statements or took actions that preclude her from asserting claims or constitute a waiver of her claims.

AS FOR A FOURTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

247. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, from recovery because of the *res judicata* effect of prior judgments.

AS FOR A FIFTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

248. Each and every claim asserted or raised in the Complaint is barred by the doctrines of estoppel, waiver or statutory and regulatory compliance.

AS FOR A SIXTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

249. If Plaintiff has sustained injuries or losses as alleged in the Complaint, upon information and belief, such injuries or losses were caused in whole or in part through the operation of nature or other intervening cause or causes.

AS FOR A SEVENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

250. To the extent that Plaintiff asserts claims based on Merck's adherence to and compliance with applicable state laws, regulations and rules, such claims are preempted by federal law under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.

AS FOR AN EIGHTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

251. To the extent Plaintiff asserts claims based upon an alleged failure by Merck to warn Plaintiff directly of alleged dangers associated with the use of Vioxx, such claims are barred under the learned intermediary doctrine because Merck has discharged its duty to warn in its warnings to the prescribing physician.

AS FOR A NINTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

252. If Plaintiff has sustained injuries or losses as alleged in the Complaint, such injuries or losses were only so sustained after Plaintiff knowingly, voluntarily and willfully assumed the risk of any injury as the result of the consumption of, administration of, or exposure to any drug or pharmaceutical preparation manufactured or distributed by Merck or other manufacturer.

AS FOR A TENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

253. If Plaintiff has sustained injuries or losses as alleged in the Complaint, upon information and belief, such injuries and losses were caused by the actions of persons not having real or apparent authority to take such actions on behalf of Merck and over whom Merck had no control and for whom Merck may not be held accountable.

AS FOR AN ELEVENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

254. If Plaintiff has sustained injuries or losses as alleged in the Complaint, upon information and belief, such injuries and losses were proximately caused by Plaintiff's misuse or abuse of Vioxx.

AS FOR A TWELFTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

255. If Plaintiff has sustained injuries or losses as alleged in the Complaint, such injuries or losses resulted from Plaintiff's pre-existing and/or unrelated medical, genetic and/or environmental conditions, diseases or illnesses, subsequent medical conditions or natural course of conditions for which Merck is not responsible.

AS FOR A THIRTEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

256. To the extent Plaintiff has settled or will in the future settle with any person or entity with respect to the injuries asserted in the Complaint, Merck's liability, if any, should be reduced accordingly.

AS FOR A FOURTEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

257. To the extent Plaintiff is seeking recovery for benefits entitled to be received or actually received from any other source for injuries alleged in the Complaint, such benefits are not recoverable in this action under Florida law.

AS FOR A FIFTEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

258. Plaintiff's claims of fraud are barred by reason of Plaintiff's failure to allege the circumstances constituting fraud with particularity, as required by Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.120(b) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(b).

AS FOR A SIXTEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

259. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, under the applicable state law because Vioxx was subject to and received pre-market approval by the Food and Drug Administration under 52 Stat. 1040, 21 U.S.C. § 301.

AS FOR A SEVENTEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

260. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the First Amendment.

AS FOR AN EIGHTEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

261. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because the product at issue was made in accordance with the state of the art at the time it was manufactured.

AS FOR A NINETEENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

262. There is no practical or technically feasible alternative design that would have reduced the alleged risk without substantially impairing the reasonably anticipated and intended function of Vioxx.

AS FOR A TWENTIETH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

263. This case is more appropriately brought in a different venue.

AS FOR A TWENTY-FIRST DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

264. Venue in this case is improper.

AS FOR A TWENTY-SECOND DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

265. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, from recovery because, in this or other courts, she has brought actions and has received judgments on parts of some or all claims asserted herein.

AS FOR A TWENTY-THIRD DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

266. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, from recovery on the ground that the claims asserted herein have been submitted to arbitration and a binding decision has been rendered.

AS FOR A TWENTY-FOURTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

267. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, from recovery by release as to her claims.

AS FOR A TWENTY-FIFTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

268. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of laches.

AS FOR A TWENTY-SIXTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

269. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by her failure to mitigate damages.

AS FOR A TWENTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

270. To the extent there were any risks associated with the use of the product which is the subject matter of this action that Merck knew or should have known and which gave rise to a duty to warn, Merck at all times discharged such duty through appropriate and adequate warnings in accordance with federal and governing state laws.

AS FOR A TWENTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

271. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, from recovery due to spoliation of evidence.

AS FOR A TWENTY-NINTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

272. The claims of Plaintiff may be barred, in whole or in part, by the governing state laws.

AS FOR A THIRTIETH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

273. Any conduct allegedly causing liability on the part of Merck is not a substantial cause or factor of any potential or actual injury or damage, if any.

AS FOR A THIRTY-FIRST DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

274. Plaintiff has not sustained any injury or damages compensable at law.

AS FOR A THIRTY-SECOND DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

275. Merck reserves its right to dismiss the Complaint and seek further relief for Plaintiff's failure to provide it with due process of law.

AS FOR A THIRTY-THIRD DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

276. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, under comment k to Section 402A of the Restatement (Second) of Torts.

AS FOR A THIRTY-FOURTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

277. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Merck provided adequate "directions or warnings" as to the use of Vioxx and any other drug or pharmaceutical preparation Plaintiff alleges to have taken within the meaning of comment j to Section 402A of the Restatement (Second) of Torts.

AS FOR A THIRTY-FIFTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

278. Plaintiff's claims are barred under Section 4, *et seq.*, of the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability.

AS FOR A THIRTY-SIXTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

279. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part because Vioxx "provides net benefits for a class of patients" within the meaning of comment f to Section 6 of the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability.

AS FOR A THIRTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

280. Defendants Pfizer, Inc., Pharmacia Corporation, Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, LLC, G. D. Searle LLC and Monsanto Company are improperly joined.

AS FOR A THIRTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

281. Any liability that might otherwise be imposed upon Merck is subject to reduction by the application of the doctrine of comparative negligence.

AS FOR A THIRTY-NINTH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

282. Merck is not guilty of negligence and violated no duty owing to Plaintiff.

AS FOR A FORTIETH DEFENSE, MERCK ALLEGES:

283. Merck has complied with requirements promulgated by and under federal law. The product at issue, Vioxx, was approved pursuant to the applicable federal statutes and regulations. Such federal regulations and statutes preempt Plaintiff's claims under state law and pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 768.1256 creates a statutory presumption that Vioxx is not defective or unreasonably dangerous and that Merck is not liable.

Inasmuch as the Complaint does not describe the alleged underlying claims with sufficient particularity to enable Merck to determine all of its legal, contractual and equitable rights, Merck reserves the right to amend and/or supplement the averments of its answer to assert any and all pertinent liability defenses ascertained through further investigation and discovery of this action.

Merck incorporates any applicable defenses asserted by any other Defendant in this action. Merck will rely on all defenses that may become available during discovery or trial.

WHEREFORE, Merck respectfully demands judgment dismissing Plaintiff's Complaint with prejudice and awarding Merck its reasonable costs and disbursements, together with such other and further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Merck demands a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Dated: May 23rd, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via U.S. Mail this 23rd day of May, 2007 to:

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